

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

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Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc. )  
Application for a Certificate of Local Service )  
Authority to Operate as a Reseller of )  
Telecommunications Services within the )  
State of Illinois )

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE  
Case No. 01-0420

**PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CHAD HAZAM  
ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT METRO TELECONNECT COMPANIES, INC.**

Q1. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Chad Hazam. I am President of Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc. ("Metro Teleconnect"). My business address is 2150 Herr Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103.

Q2. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

A. I founded Metro Teleconnect, which was the first cellular reseller to interface directly with a cellular switch. In 1995, Metro Teleconnect incorporated debit software into the company's switch so as to allow the company to provide service to all customers without the need for deposits or long-term contracts. On behalf of Metro Teleconnect, I have had close dealings with carriers, such as Verizon and 360 Degrees, implementing the prepaid cellular concept. In 1997, Metro Teleconnect, which was Cellular Rentals at that time, began reselling local telecommunications services in Pennsylvania. Today, the company is serving over 40,000 customers throughout the Verizon region, and adding 2,000 customers per month. In addition, I am President of Southwest Teleconnect, which is providing local telephone service in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. I graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where I studied

business and economics. I also have a law degree from the George Washington University School of Law, where I graduated with honors.

Q3. WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES?

A. I oversee the day-to-day operations of Metro Teleconnect. In addition, I am responsible for negotiating agreements between Metro Teleconnect and the incumbent local exchange carriers.

Q4. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Application of Metro Teleconnect for a Certificate of Local Service Authority to provide telecommunications services as a reseller in the State of Illinois.

Q5. EXPLAIN BRIEFLY THE TYPES OF SERVICES THAT METRO TELECONNECT PROPOSES TO OFFER UNDER THE CERTIFICATE REQUESTED IN ITS APPLICATION.

A. Metro Teleconnect is a reseller of prepaid local exchange telecommunications services proposing to provide services throughout Illinois in the service territories of SBC/Ameritech and Verizon.

Q6. DOES THE COMPANY INTEND TO PROVIDE OPERATOR SERVICES?

A. No.

Q7. DOES THE COMPANY OWN ANY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES?

A. No.

Q8. HOW DOES THE COMPANY'S RESALE OPERATION WORK?

A. Metro Teleconnect will purchase the services of facilities-based local exchange carriers and resell them on a prepaid basis to customers in Illinois. The Company repackages these services and resells them through its own sales force to those who may not otherwise be permitted to obtain local exchange service.

Q9. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMPANY'S CORPORATE STRUCTURE.

A. Metro Teleconnect is a privately held corporation.

Q10. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE METRO TELECONNECT'S QUALIFICATIONS TO PROVIDE THE PROPOSED SERVICES.

A. The management team is composed of individuals who have over five years of significant business experience. I described my background above in Question 2. In addition, our management team includes Karis Lewellen-Hazam and Jerry Bankes. A description of the qualifications of these individuals is attached as Attachment H to the Application. Moreover, all technical issues in Illinois will be resolved by our underlying carriers.

Q11. PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU BELIEVE THE COMPANY IS FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE THE PROPOSED SERVICES.

A. Metro Teleconnect possesses the financial resources to provide the proposed services in Illinois. As a reseller, the company will not incur significant expense to serve the Illinois market. Metro Teleconnect currently possesses sufficient assets to support this expansion, as shown by the financial statements that are attached as Attachment I to the Application.

Q12. ARE YOU PREPARED TO FILE TARIFFS AND OTHERWISE COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION APPLICABLE TO COMPANIES PROVIDING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES?

A. Yes.

Q13. WILL YOUR TARIFF CONTAIN ALL OTHER MATERIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUBSCRIBING TO METRO TELECONNECT'S SERVICES?

A. Yes. All applicable billing, payment and collection terms will be set forth in the tariff.

Q14. HOW DOES THE COMPANY BILL FOR ITS SERVICES?

A. Metro Teleconnect bills its customers directly.

Q15. HOW DO CUSTOMERS INQUIRE ABOUT THEIR BILLS FOR METRO TELECONNECT SERVICES?

A. Customers may inquire about their bills and other services by writing to the company at 2150 Herr Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103, or by calling the company's toll free number 1-800-695-6955.

Q16. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE HOW APPROVAL OF METRO TELECONNECT'S APPLICATION WOULD SERVICE THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

A. By obtaining a Certificate of Local Service Authority, Metro Teleconnect will be able to provide economic, efficient and high quality telephone services using existing facilities.

Q17. IS YOUR COMPANY PREPARED TO HANDLE 9-1-1 TRAFFIC IN THE AFFECTED AREAS PURSUANT TO THE ILLINOIS EMERGENCY SYSTEM ACT, 83 ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PARTS 720 AND 725?

A. Yes. We will contract with the incumbent local exchange carriers to handle 9-1-1 traffic.

Q18. PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE PERSON THAT WILL SERVE AS YOUR COMPANY'S CONTACT TO THE CONSUMER SERVICE DIVISION FOR COMPLAINT RESOLUTION.

A. Chad Hazam  
Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc.  
2150 Herr Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103  
(717) 564-0603 (phone)  
(717) 564-9429 (fax)

Q19. WILL THE COMPANY FOLLOW THE REGULATIONS AS PRESCRIBED IN 83 ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PART 705, "PRESERVATION OF RECORDS OF TELEPHONE UTILITIES"?

A. Yes. Please note that Metro Teleconnect has requested a waiver of Part 705 with regard to the location of those records and seeks to maintain its records in Pennsylvania. Metro Teleconnect will comply with all Part 705 regulations, including any ruling of the Commission on Metro Teleconnect's Part 705 waiver request.

Q20. WILL THE COMPANY COMPLY WITH ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PART 735 "PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREDIT, BILLING, DEPOSITS, TERMINATION OF SERVICE AND ISSUANCE OF TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES FOR TELEPHONE UTILITIES IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS"?

A. Yes. Metro Teleconnect will comply with Part 735 as it applies to the provision of resold local exchange services, except to the extent that the Commission grants Metro Teleconnect a waiver of Section 735.180, regarding the provision of directories, as requested in Attachment B of the Application.

Q21. WILL THE COMPANY CONTRACT WITH THE INCUMBENT LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER FOR DIRECTORY SERVICES OR PROVIDE ITS OWN DIRECTORY?

A. Metro Teleconnect will contract with the incumbent local exchange carrier for directory services.

Q22. HAS THE COMPANY SIGNED AND RETURNED THE UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE CORPORATION (UTAC) AND THE ILLINOIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS CORPORATION (ITAC) MEMBERSHIP FORMS TO COMMISSION STAFF?

A. Yes. The signed UTAC and ITAC forms are attached to Metro Teleconnect's Application as attachments J and K.

A23. WILL THE COMPANY ABIDE BY THE REGULATIONS AS PRESCRIBED IN 83 ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PART 755 "TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES," 83 ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PART 756 "TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE," AND SECTION 13-703 OF THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT?

A. Yes.

Q24. HAS THE COMPANY EVER PROVIDED SERVICE UNDER ANY OTHER NAME?

A. As indicated in Attachment G of Metro Teleconnect's Application, Metro Teleconnect has operated under the names Cellular Rentals, Inc., Cellular Rentals, Inc. d/b/a Metro Teleconnect, Cellular Rentals, Inc. d/b/a New England Teleconnect, Cellular Rentals, Inc. d/b/a PA Telecom, Cellular Rentals, Inc. d/b/a Pennsylvania Telecom South, Cellular

Rentals of Pennsylvania, Cellular Rentals, Inc. d/b/a New Jersey Teleconnect, and  
Cellular Rentals, Inc. d/b/a New York Teleconnect, Inc.

Q25. HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS OR JUDGMENTS BEEN LEVIED AGAINST THE  
COMPANY, IN-STATE OR OUT OF STATE?

A. No.

Q26. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED TESTIMONY?

A. Yes.

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